

BARBARA LEE

13TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Member, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies

Member, Subcommittee on
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509**

REPLY TO OFFICE CHECKED

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July 02, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We join you and with those in the international community who are expressing grave concern over the rise in sectarian violence in Iraq over the last days and weeks. The consequences of this development are particularly troubling given the extraordinary loss of American lives and expenditure of funds over ten years that was claimed to be necessary to bring democracy, stability and a respect for human rights to Iraq.

We support your restraint to date in resisting the calls for a “quick” and “easy” military intervention, and for your commitment not to send combat troops back to Iraq. We also appreciate your acknowledgement that this conflict requires a political solution, and that military action alone cannot successfully lead to a resolution.

We do not believe intervention could be either quick or easy. And, we doubt it would be effective in meeting either humanitarian or strategic goals, and that it could very well be counter-productive. This is a moment for urgent consultations and engagement with all parties in the region who could bring about a cease fire and launch a dialogue that could lead to a reconciliation of the conflict.

Any solution to this complex crisis can only be achieved through a political settlement, and only if the process and outcome is inclusive of all segments of the Iraqi population—anything short of that cannot successfully bring stability to Iraq or the region.

As you consider options for U.S. intervention, we write to urge respect for the constitutional requirements for using force abroad. The Constitution vests in Congress the power and responsibility to authorize offensive military action abroad. The use of military force in Iraq is something the Congress should fully debate and authorize. Members of Congress must consider all the facts and alternatives before we can determine whether military action would contribute to ending this most recent violence, create a climate for political stability, and protect civilians from greater harm.

We stand ready to work with you to this end.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Scott E. Rigell
Member of Congress



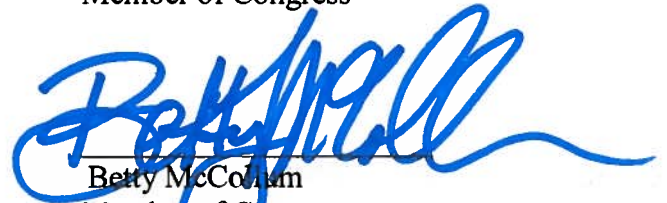
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



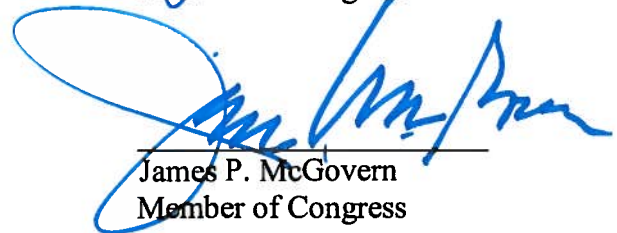
Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



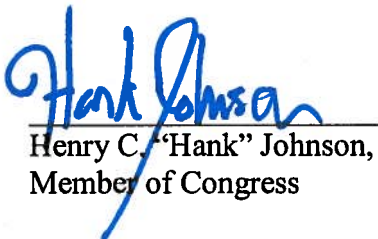
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress




Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress




Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

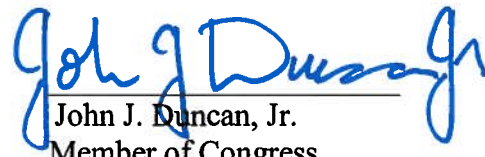

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress


Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

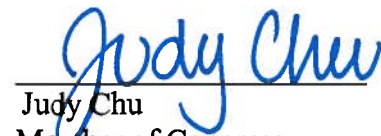

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

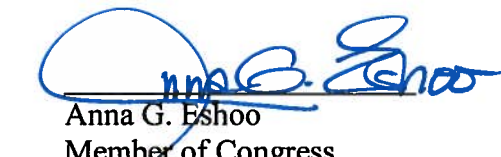

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

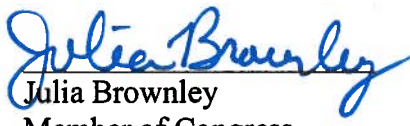

John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress


George Miller
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson
Member of Congress


Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress



James A. Himes
Member of Congress

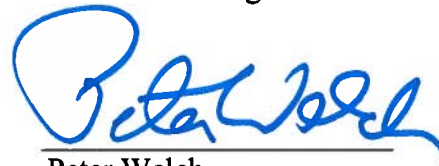

Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

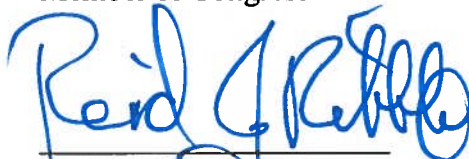

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress

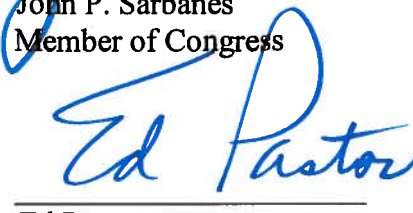

Reid J. Ribble
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress


Karen Bass
Member of Congress


Ed Pastor
Member of Congress


Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

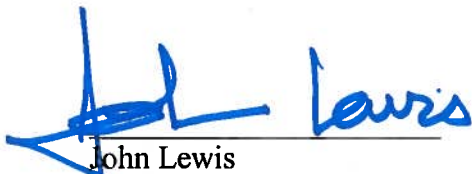

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress




Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



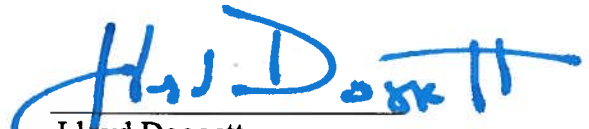
John Lewis
Member of Congress



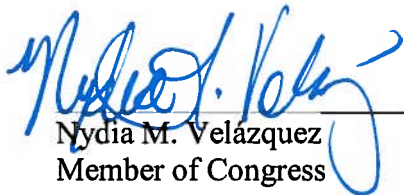
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



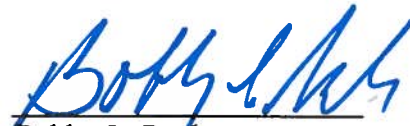
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress




Rush Holt
Member of Congress



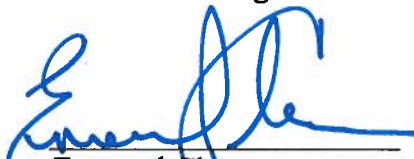
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



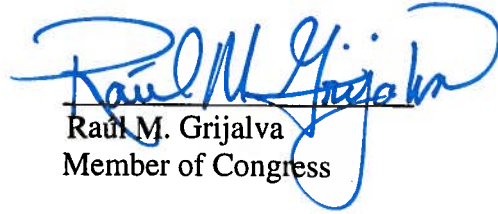
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



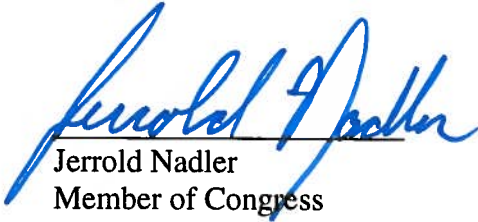
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



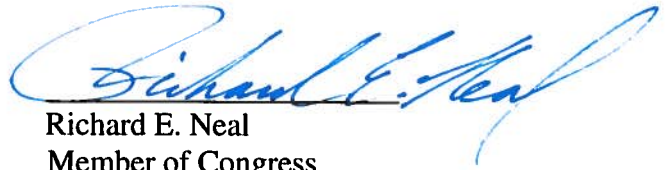
Justin Amash
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



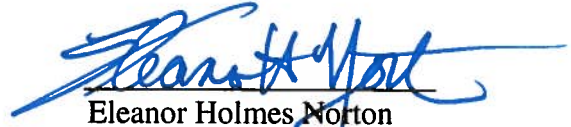
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



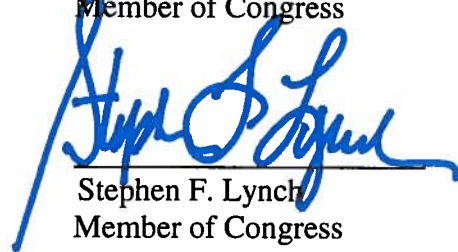
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



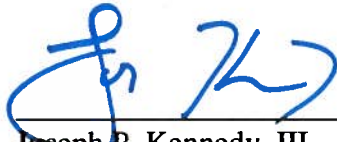
Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress